

REMARKS

The specification has been amended so as to insert appropriate sub-titles, as well as in other needed ways.

Claim 16 has been amended so as to take care of the formal matters therein and that were identified by the Examiner.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested, for the rejection of the claims as anticipated by LIAO.

LIAO discloses a system of articulation provided by a first rigid element (first section 10) and a second rigid element (second section 12) permitting said elements to move from a collapsed orientation to an expanded orientation, and conversely.

The system disclosed by LIAO includes means for pivoting the rigid elements (lugs 30 and 32, and pivot pin 14) and means for locking said elements in the expanded orientation (hook 35 and retaining bar 44): when rigid elements 10 and 12 are pivoted away from each other around pivot pin 14, hook 35 comes closer to retaining bar 44 and eventually catches said bar. This locks the joint in the expanded orientation. For collapsing the joint, one has to disengage retaining bar 44 from hook 35 and this is done by having retaining bar 44 sliding within slots 40.

According to the Official Action, elastic means (spring 50) are provided to maintain the bearing contact between surfaces 33 and 34.

Actually, the primary function of spring 50 is to prevent retaining bar 44 from sliding freely along slots 40 (see

column 4, lines 44-49): one has to compress spring 50 to free the retaining bar.

Also, according to the Official Action, hook 35 in LIAO is a first pivot part while the recess 36 between slots 40 is a second pivot part.

Hook 35 has no role in the pivoting of elements 10 and 12 except to prevent said pivoting: the only role of hook 35 is to lock the joint in the expanded orientation by engaging retaining bar 44. Once they are mutually engaged, no pivoting is possible.

The pivot parts in LIAO are obviously lugs 30 and 32 with their pivot pin 14. While they authorize pivoting in a single plane, they are not merely antirotation relief.

Thus, the Official Action clearly analyzes incorrectly the role of hook 35 in LIAO.

Furthermore, while claim 16 refers to a movable and hence intangible pivot point, pivot point 14 in LIAO is clearly fixed and tangible since it is pin 14.

Claim 16 thus defines unobvious novelty over LIAO and, consequently, claims 17, 21 and 26 are equally novel since they are directly dependent on claim 16.

Claim 26, also dependent on claim 16, is specifically directed to an articulation for spectacles; this is an additional reason for not being anticipated by a reference relating to a goal articulation structure.

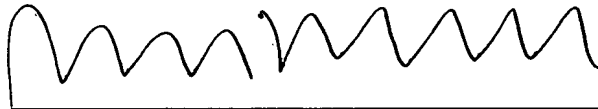
In short: as claim 16 now defines with clarity and precision this unobvious subject matter, it is patentable, and with it the claims that depend therefrom.

Reconsideration and allowance are accordingly respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert J. Patch', written over a horizontal line.

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